



Water Conservation Tips

DPW/L Environmental Division

For more information, call 788-5367

Please do your part to assist in Fort Monroe's voluntary water conservation effort. Using water wisely, by more carefully watering your lawn or not washing vehicles will not affect the quality of life. Additional information on water and energy conservation can be obtained by calling the DPW/L, Environmental Division at 788-5367 or 788-2444.

- #1** When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- #2** Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Place an empty tuna can on your lawn to catch and measure the water output of your sprinklers. For lawn watering advice, contact the DPW/L Environmental Division.
- #3** Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save 1,000 gallons a month.
- #4** Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.
- #5** Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- #6** Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save 80 gallons of water every time.
- #7** We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
- #8** Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- #9** Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- #10** When you clean your fish tank use the water you've drained on your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.
- #11** Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.

- #12** Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.
- #13** Water your summer lawns once every three days and your winter lawn once every five days.
- #14** Put in a service order and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive and can save 140 gallons a week.
- #15** Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- #16** Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.
- #17** While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.
- #18** Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- #19** Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- #20** Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- #21** Make sure your toilet flapper doesn't stick open after flushing.
- #22** Make sure there are aerators on all of your faucets.
- #23** When the kids want to cool off use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- #24** Landscape with trees, plants and groundcovers. Call the DPW/L Environmental Division for more information about these water thrifty plants.
- #25** Wash clothes only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons each month.
- #26** Bermuda grasses (like Fort Monroe has) are dormant (brown) in the winter and will only require water once every three to four weeks or less if it rains.
- #27** Turn the water off while you shampoo/condition/shave and you can save more than 150 gallons a week.
- #28** Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface
- #29** When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.
- #30** For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.